

SENATE—Wednesday, October 11, 2000*(Legislative day of Friday, September 22, 2000)*

The Senate met at 9:32 a.m., on the expiration of the recess, and was called to order by the President pro tempore [Mr. THURMOND].

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Chaplain will now deliver the opening prayer.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Lloyd John Ogilvie, offered the following prayer:

The Psalmist gives us a timely word for this pressured week, "Cast your burden on the Lord, and He will sustain you."—Psalm 55:22.

Let us pray.

Gracious God, we come to You with our burdens. You know that we all carry both personal and professional burdens. Beneath the surface of studied composure, we all have loved ones for whom we are concerned, friends who are troubled, and unresolved problems about which we find it difficult to stop worrying.

At many different levels, we feel the tension of finishing the work of the 106th Congress. The election approaches with additional burdens for Senators running for reelection. Challenges here do not let up, and the problems in the state mount up. Meanwhile, peace of mind is up for grabs as we struggle with differing agendas for the legislation before the Senate.

Lord, could it be that if we all—Republicans and Democrats, Senators and staff—stopped in our tracks and really asked for Your help, You would intervene and help this Senate achieve unity with both excellence and efficiency? In our heart of hearts we know You would, and will, if we ask You with a united voice of earnestness. Dear God, bless this Senate. We relinquish our control and ask You to take charge. It's hard to be willing, but we are willing to allow You to make us willing. You are our Lord and Saviour. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable MIKE CRAPO, a Senator from the State of Idaho, led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

RECOGNITION OF THE ACTING MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Kansas is recognized.

SCHEDULE

Mr. BROWNBACK. Mr. President, today the Senate will begin debate on the conference report to accompany H.R. 3244, the sex trafficking victims legislation. I want to start this discussion and debate off with thanking my good friend and colleague, Senator PAUL WELLSTONE. He and I have worked together on this bill the entire year. We have come at this from different points of view. I think we have worked together and come up with an excellent proposal and package. I hope for unanimous support from the Senate.

We got near that in the House, with a vote of 377-1. I have spoken with that one person who deeply regrets voting against us on this bill. It was actually for another provision that was in the bill. This is an important piece of legislation.

The sex trafficking victims legislation is here under a previous order, and there will be up to 7 hours of debate on the conference report we are going to discuss. Senator THOMPSON will raise a point of order against the report and is expected to appeal the ruling of the Chair. Therefore, a vote on the appeal, as well as a vote on adoption of the conference report, is expected to occur during this afternoon's session. The Senate will also consider the VA-HUD appropriations bill and the conference report to accompany the Agriculture appropriations bill, with votes on both expected to occur prior to today's adjournment.

I thank my colleagues for their attention.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. CRAPO). Under the previous order, leadership time is reserved.

TRAFFICKING VICTIMS PROTECTION ACT OF 2000—CONFERENCE REPORT

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate will now proceed to the conference report accompanying H.R. 3244.

The clerk will report the conference report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

The Committee of Conference on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses on the amendment of the Senate on the bill, H.R. 3244, an act to combat trafficking of persons, especially into the sex trade, slavery, and slavery-like conditions, in the United States and countries around the world through pre-

vention, through prosecution and enforcement against traffickers, and through protection and assistance to victims of trafficking, having met, have agreed that the House recede from its disagreement to the amendment of the Senate, and agree to the same with an amendment, and the Senate agree to the same, signed by a majority of the conferees on the part of both Houses.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate will proceed to the consideration of the conference report.

(The report was printed in the House proceedings of the RECORD of October 5, 2000.)

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Kansas is recognized.

Mr. BROWNBACK. Mr. President, I believe under the uniform unanimous consent agreement that we have, time has been allocated to several different Members of the Senate to speak on this conference report; is that correct?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator is correct.

Mr. BROWNBACK. Mr. President, let me start this debate and discussion with the story of Irina. Irina's story appeared in the New York Times not that long ago, and it is similar to the story of a number of women with whom I have met and who have been caught in this situation of sex trafficking—young ladies I met with in Nepal, and several testified in committee. I think Irina's story tells in graphic detail why this is a problem and why the Senate needs to act.

Irina always assumed that her beauty would somehow rescue her from the poverty and hopelessness of village life. A few months ago, after answering a vague ad in a small Ukrainian newspaper, she slipped off a tour boat when it put in at Haifa, hoping to make a bundle dancing naked on the tops of tables.

She was 21, self-assured and glad to be out of Ukraine. Israel offered a new world, and for a week or two everything seemed possible. Then, one morning, she was driven to a brothel, where her boss burned her passport before her eyes.

"I own you," she recalled his saying. "You are my property and you will work until you earn your way out. Don't try to leave. You have no papers and you don't speak Hebrew. You will be arrested and deported. Then we will get you and bring you back."

That was her master. The article goes on.

It happens every single day. Not just in Israel, which has deported nearly 1,500 Russian and Ukrainian women like Irina in the past three years. But throughout the world, where selling naive and desperate young women into sexual bondage has become one of the fastest-growing criminal enterprises in the robust global economy.

... Many end up like Irina. Stunned and outraged by the sudden order to prostitute